

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 24, wherein the first stretch resistance equals the second stretch resistance.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The tab of claim 24, wherein the dead zone is substantially rectangular in shape.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The tab of claim 3, wherein ~~a longitudinal direction of the fastener tab is defined as a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the garment, and~~

~~the dead zone is aligned such that a longitudinal axis of the rectangular shape is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the tab.~~

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 24, wherein the dead zone has a curved edge.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The tab of claim 24, wherein the dead zone completely separates the first and second elastic regions.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 24, wherein the dead zone comprises a plurality of dead zones.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The tab of claim 24, wherein the fastener tab has a tab leg edge for positioning proximate a leg opening of the garment and a tab waist edge for positioning proximate a waist edge of the garment.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 8, wherein the dead zone comprises two dead zones,

a first one of the two dead zones is positioned adjacent the tab leg edge, and
a second one of the two dead zones is positioned adjacent the tab waist edge.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A fastener tab for an absorbent garment having longitudinally opposite waist regions when laid flat, a longitudinal centerline of the fastener tab being in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the garment, the fastener tab comprising:

a first elastic region having a first stretch resistance;
a dead zone adjacent to the first elastic region;
a second elastic region adjacent to the dead zone and having a second stretch resistance at least as great as the first stretch resistance; and
a gripping zone attached to one of the first and second elastic regions,
wherein the dead zone has substantially more stretch resistance than the first and second elastic regions,
the first elastic region is located mostly on a waist side of the longitudinal centerline of the tab, and
the second elastic region is located mostly on a leg side of the longitudinal centerline of the tab.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 10, wherein a longitudinal direction of the dead zone is positioned diagonally relative to the longitudinal centerline of the tab.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 10, wherein dead zone is substantially rectangular in shape.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 10, wherein the dead zone has a curved edge.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 10, wherein the dead zone completely separates the first and second elastic regions.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 10, wherein the dead zone comprises a plurality of dead zones.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A fastener tab for an absorbent garment having longitudinally opposite waist regions when laid flat, the fastener tab comprising:

- an elastic region for attaching to the garment;
- a gripping zone attached to the elastic region; and
- a dead zone within the elastic region between the gripping zone and the garment, wherein the elastic region has a uniform stretch resistance,
- the elastic region has a primary stretch direction along which the elastic region is stretched when the tab is used, and
- the dead zone has substantially more stretch resistance than the elastic region.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 16, wherein a longitudinal direction of the dead zone and the primary stretch direction are non-parallel.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 17, wherein the longitudinal direction of the dead zone is perpendicular to the primary stretch direction.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 16, wherein the dead zone comprises a plurality of dead zones.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 19, wherein the dead zone comprises two dead zones,
the two dead zones are located on opposite sides of a centerline of the tab, and
the centerline of the tab is parallel to the primary stretch direction.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The tab of claim 20, wherein the two dead zones are located on opposite edges of the tab.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A fastener tab for an absorbent garment having longitudinally opposite waist regions when laid flat, the fastener tab comprising:

- a first elastic region for attaching to the garment;
- a dead zone adjacent to the first elastic region;
- a second elastic region adjacent to the dead zone; and
- a gripping zone attached to the second elastic region,

wherein the dead zone has substantially more stretch resistance than the elastic region,

- the elastic region has a primary stretch direction along which the elastic region is stretched when the tab is used,

- the dead zone extends a first distance in a direction perpendicular to the primary stretch direction,

- the tab extends a second distance in the direction perpendicular to the primary stretch direction, and

- at all points along the primary stretch direction the first distance is less than the second distance.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A unitary fastener tab for direct attachment to one of the waist regions of an absorbent garment having longitudinally opposite waist regions when laid flat, the fastener tab comprising:

a tab chassis attached to one of the waist regions of the garment, said tab chassis comprising a single sheet of elastic material extending along the entire length of the tab, said sheet of elastic material defining the longitudinal perimeter of the tab, wherein the longitudinal direction of the tab is defined as a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the garment;

a dead zone attached to and located substantially in a central region of the tab chassis; and

a gripping zone attached to and located substantially at an edge of the tab chassis within the longitudinal perimeter of the tab chassis;

wherein the dead zone divides the tab chassis into a first elastic region having a first stretch resistance and a second elastic region having a second stretch resistance, the dead zone has substantially more stretch resistance than the first and second elastic regions, and the first stretch resistance is at least as great as the second stretch resistance.

Claim 25 (currently amended): An absorbent garment having longitudinally opposite waist regions when laid flat, the absorbent garment comprising:

a chassis comprising a top sheet a back sheet and an absorbent core attached to the chassis and disposed between the top sheet and back sheet; and

~~an absorbent core attached to the chassis; and~~

a unitary fastener tab positioned between and directly attached to the top sheet and the back sheet at one of the waist regions, said tab having

a tab chassis comprising a single sheet of elastic material extending along the entire length of the tab, said sheet of elastic material defining the longitudinal perimeter of the tab, wherein the longitudinal direction of the tab is defined as a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the garment;

a dead zone attached to and located substantially in a central region of the tab chassis; and

a gripping zone attached to and located substantially at an edge of the tab chassis within the longitudinal perimeter of the tab chassis;

wherein the dead zone divides the tab chassis into a first elastic region having a first stretch resistance and a second elastic region having a second stretch resistance, the dead zone has substantially more stretch resistance than the first and second elastic regions, and the first stretch resistance is at least as great as the second stretch resistance.